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The Road I Took (1994 program)

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Director's Notes

Welcome to SummerStage!

SummerStage is a program sponsored by Harding University and funded by the State Department of Education, Division of Gifted and Talented.

The 50 students who comprise the ensemble of SummerStage have spent the last three weeks experiencing the various aspects of the performing arts including instrumental music, acting, dance, design, publicity, costume construction, set construction, lighting, music arranging, singing, and collaborative writing.

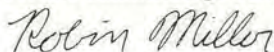
The students have originated the production of "The Road I Took" you are about to view. From the script to the acting, the sets to the costumes, this production is a creation of the students working in collaboration with each other to achieve the final product.

Originating a full length work of musical theater has been the framework for much of the educational activities the last three weeks; however, SummerStage is much more than simply putting another show "on the boards." The students in SummerStage have had the opportunities to learn in areas beyond simply the mechanics of mounting a production. The students have experienced theater by traveling to see five different full productions, touring both professional and community theaters, and attending workshops presented by professionals in numerous areas of production.

In addition to simply learning the performing arts, the students have had the opportunity to acquire and perfect skills that can apply to all aspects of life. Whether it is learning the give and take of sharing a room with a new acquaintance, finding a way to merge two versions of a script into one that then goes on stage, collaborating on a logo or set design, figuring out how to create a 14 foot tall puppet that can be used by actors, or simply learning how to live in very close proximity day in and day out with 50 other people for three weeks, the ensemble of SummerStage have learned collaboration and compromise, how to give and receive suggestions for improvement, and how to work as a group.

Three weeks to put together a major project is a very ambitious undertaking as the students will confirm. Writing the original script added much complexity to the process, but the students have risen to the challenge. A huge standing ovation goes to the students of SummerStage for the way that they have worked as a team to create the event you are about to watch.

For the SummerStage Staff,



Robin Miller, Program Director

Harding University
and
SummerStage
present

THE ROAD I TOOK

a compiled script in two acts

Friday, July 29, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 30, 2:00 p.m.
Administration Auditorium
Searcy, Arkansas

SummerStage Staff 1994

Robin Miller - Program Director
Lisa Manchester - Coordinator
Peggy Cromwell - Activities Director
R. Cliff Thompson - Writing Coordinator
Ronda Street - Instrumental Director
Gary Wilson - Vocal Director
Dan Stockstill - Technical Director
Carol Lynn Cicirello - Choreographer
Sherry Thompson - Costumer
Martha Conrad - Girls' Counselor/Art Consultant
Mark Hudson - Boys' Counselor
Cindee Stockstill - Graduate Intern

A. E. G. I. S.
Academic Enrichment for the Gifted in Summer

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the Arkansas Department of Education,
authorized by ACT 3, 1st Extraordinary Session, 1983.

What is a compiled script?

Theatre folk for the last several decades have been taking advantage of the dramatic possibilities inherent in prose, poetry, essays, diaries, etc. Musicals as diverse as CATS, THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD, and QUILTERS use non-traditional writing to further the dramatic action of the work. Unlike a traditional play that relies on characters and their motivations to move the story along, the compiled script links themes, writing styles, internal rhythms, or ironies to communicate the developing idea. As a theatre form, the script is more like a collage than a portrait...many pieces that, when viewed from a distance, make dramatic sense.

The script for today's performance utilizes many of the compiled script's strengths while retaining a traditional plot line. The stories of Thomas and Dr. Floyd are told as much through the unfolding action of characters in a scene as through the developing idea of a poem, short story, or letter.

The six students who contributed to the script's completion learned that the process of creating words "by committee" can be a painful one. Very few scenes were written by one writer. Often several students worked together to create a first draft that then went through several rounds of peer editing. As for the selection of pieces to include in the compiled script, the work of established writers provides a standard for student writers to attain. Much of the compiled material is drawn from these sources. However, a significant amount in this script was written by students in the program. Their creative efforts have directly affected the writing for Dr. Floyd, the college students, Thomas, and his father.

During the past three weeks, all of us have learned much about how theatre writing works, and how non-traditional material can enter onto the stage.

Compiled material for THE ROAD I TOOK is drawn from the following sources:

- "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost
- "The Grading System" by Richard Armour
- "It Was 'Gorilla Warfare' To Some Students" by Lillian Stewart Carl
- HAMLET by William Shakespeare
- VIET ROCK by Megan Terry
- THE PENTAGON PAPERS edited by The New York TIMES
- THE HEART OF A MAN edited by Martha Elkins
- "Acrostic" - author unknown
- "Wheat Field Under Threatening Skies with Crows" by Paula Horowitz
- OUR TOWN by Thornton Wilder
- "The Road of Love" by Timothy Evans
- "A Lady" by Amy Lowell
- "Untitled" by Brooke Budy
- "Poet's Prayer" by James Autry
- "The Road I Took" by Charles Ghigna

Musical Numbers

Overture and Section 1

Wipeout
 Barbara Ann
 Walk Right In
 Blowin' in the Wind
 Come Go With Me
 Excerpt-The Road Not Taken

The Surfaris
 Fred Fassett
 Gus Cannon & H. Woods
 Bob Dylan
 C. E. Quick
 Randall Thompson

Section 2

Where Have All the Flowers Gone?
 Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy
 One Tin Soldier

Pete Seeger
 Don Raye & Hughie Prince
 Dennis Lambert & Brian Potter

Section 3

Elegy for a Young American
 Un Bel Di
 The Last Night of the World

Ronald Lopresti
 Giacomo Puccini
 Schonberg/Maltby/~~Donbald~~

Section 4

Visions of Woodstock (Collage)

Various artists

Section 5

Symphony No. 3, Mvt. 1
 Quartette No. 1 in G
 Children Will Listen

Johannes Brahms
 Eric DeLamarter
 Stephen Sondheim

INTERMISSION

Entr' acte and Section 6 - Excerpts from:

Come Together
 Desperado
 A Fifth of Beethoven

Rock 'n Roll
 Long Train Running
 Sweet Home Alabama
 Come Sail Away
 China Grove

recorded by The Beatles
 recorded by The Eagles
 recorded by Walter Murphy &
 The Big Apple Band
 recorded by Led Zeppelin
 recorded by The Doobie Brothers
 recorded by Lynard Skynard
 recorded by Styx
 recorded by The Double Brothers

Section 7

Canon in D/Born to be Wild
 One Voice

Johann Pachelbel/Mars Bonfire
 arr. by Mark A. Brymer

Section 8

This Joint is Jumpin'
 from Ain't Misbehavin'
 The Road Not Taken

arr. by Mark A. Brymer
 Randall Thompson



Front Row: (left to right) Tina Shelton, Selena McDougald, Ellen Daniel, Peyton Welch, Wendie Dillahay, Bridgette Tyree. Adriana Garcia, Leigh Bradley, Suzie Callantine, and Sarah Starks.

Second Row: Ashley Ethridge, Kara Kinder, Jonathan Tatus, Lisa Douglas, Stesha Ries, Ashleigh Short, Ashley Mitchell, Heather Holder, and Tisha Guston.

Third Row: Scott Kelley, Matt King, Rachel Reynolds, Raney English, Robin Chaffin, Amanda Brewer, Amy Killian, Tamra Patterson, and Susan Stucky.

Fourth Row: Jonathan Jones, Travis Eades, Adam Fraize, Nathan Doster, Shane Sturdivant, Van Johnson, Krissy Perkinson, and Elizabeth Brill.

Fifth Row: Ken Cannon, Timothy Evans, Jeremy James, Joe Villines, Daniel Spillers, Benny Lonidier, Sarah Danley, and Leigh Walden.

Back Row: Phil Fagala, Shannon Nelson, Brooke Budy, Qunicy Hays, Charlie Green, and Andy Amon.

Student Participants and Their Major Responsibilities

Andy Amon	"Hamlet", Lighting
Leigh Bradley	"Boogie Woogie" Trio, GRAY LADY voice
Amanda Brewer	Vocalist, Violin
Elizabeth Brill	Vocalist, Strings
Brooke Budy	Writer, Set Design
Suzie Callantine	Set Design, French Horn
Ken Cannon	Stage Manager, "Nate"
Robin Chaffin	"Boogie Woogie" Trio, "Cheerleader"
Ellen Daniel	"Shirley", "Co-Ed"
Sarah Danley	"Ms. Anderson", Costume Design
Wendie Dillahay	Dancer, "Liason Officer"
Nathan Doster	Writer, Technician
Lisa Douglas	Logo, "Assistant to Mr. Hannon"
Travis Eades	"Thomas Browning"
Raney English	"Last Night of the World" Duet, Dancer
Ashley Ethridge	Dancer, "Student"
Timothy Evans	"Last Night of the World" Duet, Lighting
Phil Fagala	<u>Grading System</u> , "Student"
Adam Fraize	Writer, General's voice
Adriana Garcia	Set Design, "Teacher"
Charlie Green	"Student"
Tisha Guston	Flute, Vocalist
Quincy Hays	Saxophone, "Hamlet"
Heather Holder	"Ophelia", Boogie Woogie" Trio
Jeremy James	Clarinet, Tenor Sax
Van Johnson	Guitar, Technician
Jonathan Jones	Trumpet, Technician
Scott Kelley	Orchestra, "Pete"
Amy Killian	Set Design, "Neela"
Kara Kinder	Puppet Construction and Operation
Matt King	Orchestra, "Sergeant"
Benny Lonidier	Orchestra
Selena McDougald	Dancer, "Daughter"
Ashley Mitchell	"Madame Butterfly" Aria, "Teacher"
Shannon Nelson	"Government Official", Dancer
Tamra Patterson	"Acrostic" Choreographer, "Robin"
Krissy Perkinson	"Ophelia", "Rita"
Rachel Reynolds	"String Teacher", Violinist
Stesha Ries	Dancer, "Protester"
Tina Shelton	"Young Dorothy", "Lead Protester"
Ashleigh Short	"Dr. Dorothy Floyd"
Daniel Spillers	"Dr. Eldridge", Dancer
Sarah Starks	Set Design, "Sleeping Student"
Susan Stucky	Costumer, "Mother"
Shane Sturdivant	"Vice Admiral Browning", Dancer
Jonathan Tatus	"Papa", Writer
Bridgette Tyree	Dancer, "Student"
Joe Villines	Guitar
Leigh Walden	Dancer, "Mrs. Ellis"
Peyton Welch	"Mr. Hannon", "Student"

The Road I Took

Section 1 - The Innocent Age

On the campus of Edmonton College, Delaware, Spring 1966
"What are you doing after graduation?"

Section 2 - Warring Voices

Thomas' home and the induction center, Summer 1966
"You didn't *think* you were prepared to die for your country;
you *knew* you were prepared."

Section 3 - Letters from Home

Viet Nam, Summer 1966 through Summer 1969
"I'd give my right arm if I could just hear your voice on the phone."

Section 4 - Battles at Home

Edmonton College, Fall 1969
"The thing that is at stake is the students' freedom of expression."

Section 5 - Children Will Listen

Viet Nam and Edmonton College, 1971
"I pick up my cold coffee and when I turn at the door, I see my father smiling."

Section 6 - Inner City Relevance

Baltimore, 1982
"Shakespeare makes me think of my grandmother's Bible - old and dusty."

Section 7 - Struggling to be Heard

Edmonton College, 1982
"Isn't it amazing how just one person can touch so many lives?"

Section 8 - Passing the Torch

Edmonton College, 1986
"I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence;
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."

SPECIAL THANKS!

The staff and students of SummerStage wish to thank the following for their contribution to the program.

Dr. David Burks & Harding University

HU Department of Communication

HU Department of Music

Dr. Arthur Shearin

Dr. Warren Casey

Patricia Cox

Mark Hudson

Mayor David Evans & the City of Searcy

Eldon Jansen & W. Dale Warren, Univ. of Arkansas

Dena Kimberling, Stageworks

Gum Springs FCE Club

Debbie Kent

Glen Gilbert & Murry's Dinner Theatre

Craighead Co.-Jonesboro Public Library

Henderson State University

White County Hospital

First National Bank, Searcy

First Security Bank, Searcy

Yarnell's Ice Cream

Dr. John Baines

Park Avenue Baptist Church

First Baptist Church, Searcy

College Church of Christ

Steve Martin

Joe Cicirello

Larry Conrad

Steve Holder

